

From the holdings of
Western Archives, Western University

October 16th/16.

FEL/C.

My Dear Ibb & Wood. -

RE FURTHER EXTENSION WEST.

I am sending this in duplicate so you will both have it at the same time and expect you will do your best to confer about this matter if not in person by letter or telephone. Messrs. Morgan, Holmes and I have talked this matter over some time ago and agreed that it was not necessary, and if we put the new roof on the boiler house with an additional four foot wall it was all we would require to expend this winter.

As I told you before the inspection has been getting stricter for the last three months and output less, resulting in our having every nook and corner in the shops piled up with shells detained for one reason and another, some most trivial. Mr. Morgan estimates about ten thousand in last stages. The Mounting Shop, Sheet Iron Shop, Carpenter Shop, are nothing by "pyramids" of shells and crates holding say 50 each.

The New Inspector Mr. Everett told us he wanted more room to change our system in order to get out output to the point it should be increased. Our own private opinion is the Head Inspector got cold feet at the large number of shells in process for so far we have not had a complaint from Woolwich as to quality or finish as we get wires every week from Col. Ogilvie as each series pass. Mr. Everett intimated he must have more room partitioned off under lock and key. He may modify this after a few days but to be prepared I want to say that the only way to accomplish this is to move the Sheet Iron Shop and machinery into the East Bay of the Boiler Shop at a cost of eight or nine hundred dollars and perhaps half that sum to move it back and replace the machinery we will have to raise the floor in order to use it for shell storage and inspection (right off). This to me seems like very short sighted expenditure and extra cost and inconveniences for a year or more. What I would like to do is to put this \$1400.00 into another 72 foot extension by adding \$3000.00 to it and have something to show for the money. Morgan says he would change the routing of the shells through the shop by putting a couple or three machines into this proposed shop and bring the final inspection there also. This would keep the sheet iron shop where it is (a most convenient location) and allow us to use the track between platform and boiler shop which we have not been able to use for six weeks as it is occupied with shells. Another reason is that in a very short time we will want all the east bay in boiler shop for storage of boilers as we have not room in the West yard. If we cannot get plates for new boilers we will buy and repair old boilers and never let the most profitable part of our business fail us. I have consulted Mr. McBride who says a duplicate can be put up in four weeks for the same money \$4500.00. I tell you it is a very fine machine shop and will have a photo of its exterior and interior very soon as the leaves are falling.

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Aug. 16/16.

My plan is that after you have consulted that you cable me

"Build" : which will mean you both agree to further extension if necessary

"Burked" : which will mean you cannot consent to further addition.

79L